

REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO - A.A.

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Testo

When I decided to go on exchange program I knew that I want to go in Germany. My first wish was Berlin but at the end I chose Hannover, because there was more places. I didn't know what to expect because I wasn't very familiar with school and program but at the end that wasn't important so much. I wanted to experience Erasmus and Germany.

I must say at the beginning of the whole procedure, was a little bit boring, because we had to handle a lot of administrative matters, to do same things even a few times, but in the other hand the whole process was part of experience.

Don't know if I was lucky but I found accommodation in Hannover very easy, while I still was in Milan, over international student office in Hannover. They have list of incoming students and also the list of people who need new flatmates. So I recommend this way of search, because is secure and fast. Another good thing about accommodation in Hannover is that is very cheap comparing to Milan. You may find very nice room and big enough, also at good location for around 250 euros (all costs included). Warmly recommend part of the city called Linden, it is very close to the official city center, but in someway it is center of the city itself. Neighbourhood is very nice and more for young people, like students also a bit artistic and definitely most vivid. Around are best clubs and pubs, for example Faust, Glocksee, Centrum, also hang out spots next to the river where young people spend time when the wether is good.

In general Hannover is small but very nice and very green with lot of parks, rivers and lakes, basically wherever you go you can go by walking. But also by tram, network is pretty much well organised. If you like to cycle then you should definitely get a bike, the fastest way to reach everything and good thing is that Hannover is whole flat. Very cheap bicycle (around 40 euros) you can find at the flea markets on Sundays.

The only thing which is a bit far is university. It is located about 20 minutes by tram from city center, at neighbourhood called Expo Plaza, where Expo 2000 took place, so everything around is a bit modern so as school.

The school is big, not always full of people unlike Politecnico, but if you feel like working at it you can always. There is a lot of working space, computer rooms with iMac's but if you feel more comfortable with PC there are plenty of them as well. The only thing missing around the university is place where you can drink coffee. There wasn't any, you can only buy coffee at the machine or student cantina which works only until 4 pm, on Fridays even shorter. Also for food is quite similar, there is student mensa which also has weird open time, but at least is very very cheap.

Regarding to the school subjects, as we weren't like regular students we had opportunity to choose whatever we wanted, obviously the best one. Even if I didn't expect I have learned a lot. The best course in which I participated was Bookbinding, it was incredible experience. I have learned how to make my own (note)book. But also the other courses were useful. And the most important: everything is pretty much easy going. We didn't feel any pressure any stress before exams. Professors are very kind and willing to help anytime. In general comparing to Politecnico, Hochschule Hannover is more practical, you can feel like an artist there, which I liked the most.

Almost all of us Erasmus students participated at course called How to look at it, held by our coordinator prof. Bernhard Garbert, it was such a joy there. Professor is so helpful, kind and very committed to his students. He took us (it was about 12 of us) to Berlin for two days, all costs were covered by the school (one night accommodation, train and exhibition tickets). We visited some galleries and museums, also studio of one artist and finally professor and his wife hosted us for dinner, so we had a chance to discuss altogether art that we saw. In one word amazing experience.

Good to mention, we paid for student semester ticket, which was a bit expensive (something like 290 euros) but that covered transport in Hannover for 6 months, and also which was very good, we could travel for free around Lower Saxony. For example we could go in Hamburg and Bremen, also in other Lower Saxony towns, as much as we liked, for free.

In conclusion if you want to go to the Erasmus but you are not sure where, and you don't want to spend a lot of money and you don't mind German you should definitely go to Hannover.

Last thing regarding German language, we had free course of it, but if you are not committed very much and deep, don't expect to start even to understand them after 6 months. It's very heavy language, but if you are not so into it that's okay as well. Almost everybody speaks English, they are very English speaking friendly.

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